

delay in achieving an armistice. The procedural resolution deferring consideration of the two agenda items on Korea — “The Problem of the Independence of Korea” and “Relief and Rehabilitation of Korea” — was adopted by the Assembly on February 5, 1952 by a vote of 51 in favour (including Canada), 5 against (the Soviet bloc) and 2 abstentions (Chile and Yemen).

In order to try to break the deadlock in the armistice negotiations which were still going on, the United Nations Command negotiators on April 28 put forward a “package proposal”, the effect of which would have been that the United Nations Command would repatriate all enemy prisoners who could be repatriated without the use of force, that a neutral organ of inspection known as the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission would be set up to help supervise the armistice (including Sweden and Switzerland nominated by the United Nations Command and Poland and Czechoslovakia nominated by the communists), and that the United Nations Command would agree that the terms of the armistice would not include a prohibition against the rebuilding of military airfields in Korea. Debate on this package proposal was still continuing on June 30 but by then it was apparent that the only real cause of dispute was the prisoners of war in United Nations hands who did not want to be repatriated and on whose repatriation the communist negotiators were insisting.

During the period of 18 months under review, the United Nations moved from a position of direct participation in the war in Korea to a position in which it was relying on bodies to whom authority had been delegated, to try and bring the war to a conclusion. This situation was, of course, brought about by the beginning of armistice talks in July 1951. Similarly military activity gradually declined after the failure of the communist offensives in the spring of 1951 until, on the ground at least, there was a relative lull during the last 12 months.

## **Charges of the National Government of China Against the Soviet Union**

Charges of treaty breaking and violations of the United Nations Charter were originally brought against the Soviet Union by the National Government of China at the fourth session of the General Assembly in 1949. They were referred to the Interim Committee of the Assembly for study and after further consideration at the fifth session of the Assembly in 1950 were once more referred to the Interim Committee.<sup>1</sup> The Interim Committee did not meet during 1951 and the General Assembly decided at its sixth session to include the item on its agenda. Canada voted in favour of including the item.

Debate began on January 26, 1952, the Chinese and United States Delegates supporting the charges and the Soviet Union opposing. The Soviet member made little attempt to answer the

<sup>1</sup>See *Canada and the United Nations 1950*, pp. 12 and 13.